



Updating the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations

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We asked

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) commenced public consultation on March 1 2022 on three topics related to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) to inform the next and future updates of the classification.

Public consultation ran for 6 weeks, seeking feedback on:

- construction-related trades occupations
- how skills are reflected in ANZSCO, and
- other areas of ANZSCO requiring future update.

You said

This public consultation generated 137 submissions from a wide range of stakeholder groups and sectors of the user community.

2022 targeted update

Continuing the review work that commenced in 2021, the ABS sought feedback on a proposed list of 24 construction-related trades occupations to be a focus for 2022.

The list was developed in consultation with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), based on the following criteria:

- occupations in ANZSCO Major Group 3 Technicians and Trades Workers at skill level 3,
- occupations with significant Australian Apprenticeships commencements,
- occupations traditionally associated with an apprenticeship pathway, that were not included in the 2021 update, and
- the number of persons employed in the occupation in the 2016 Census of Population and Housing are significant.

Also included were a small number of occupations that were engineering-related rather than construction, but which also satisfied the above criteria.

The ABS received nine submissions from users on these 24 construction-related trades occupations. A common theme across feedback indicated that civil (infrastructure) construction occupations described in ANZSCO no longer accurately reflect the modern workforce and in some instances lack visibility within the classification. Changes to skill in the modern labour market has meant that some of these occupations described in ANZSCO appear to lack sufficient detail, and no longer reflect the range of skills and competencies required to undertake these occupations.

However, feedback reflected broad support for the current definition of residential and commercial occupations in ANZSCO, with some suggested additional occupation categories and minor definitional changes to reflect contemporary practice.

Skills

The ABS recognises that there is demand for a review of how skills are reflected in the classification. An initial set of key issues were defined with our partners and a skills problem statement drafted for consideration by users.

The ABS received thirteen submissions from users supportive of work to improve how skills are reflected in the classification. These submissions provided feedback on the five key issues that were highlighted in the skills problem statement and provided some further suggestions based on other international frameworks for ABS to consider.

Other areas of ANZSCO

The ABS received a further 115 submissions identifying areas of the classification users would like updated to reflect the occupations of a contemporary Australian workforce. Feedback was received from a wide range of industries including health and community services, professional services,

manufacturing, technology, and the arts. Feedback will be assessed to assist with planning future updates.

We did

2022 targeted update

Based on user feedback the following 24 construction-related trades occupations are within scope for the 2022 targeted update. The ABS is now in the process of assessing the submissions on these to develop a set of proposed changes for further consultation in September 2022.

322211 Sheetmetal Trades Worker	332211 Painting Trades Worker
322311 Metal Fabricator	333111 Glazier
322313 Welder (First Class)	333211 Fibrous Plasterer
323211 Fitter (General)	333212 Solid Plasterer
323212 Fitter and Turner	333311 Roof Tiler
323313 Locksmith	333411 Wall and Floor Tiler
331111 Bricklayer	334111 Plumber (General)
331112 Stonemason	334112 Airconditioning & Mechanical Services Plumber
331211 Carpenter and Joiner	334113 Drainer/Drainlayer
331212 Carpenter	334114 Gasfitter
331213 Joiner	334115 Roof Plumber
332111 Floor Finisher	394111 Cabinetmaker

The remaining Emerging Occupations identified by the National Skills Commission (NSC) that were unable to be included in the [ANZSCO 2021, Australian Update](#) will be reviewed as part of the 2022 targeted update. These [Emerging Occupations](#) comprise of new, frequently advertised jobs which are substantially different to occupations already defined in the ANZSCO. The following Emerging Occupations are within scope for the 2022 targeted update:

Data Analyst	Fundraiser	Hazardous Materials Labourer
Data Architect	Risk Analyst	Patient Liaison
Data Engineer	Logistics Analyst	
Data Scientist	Regulatory Affairs Specialist	

The ABS will also assess these occupations and develop a set of proposed classification changes for further consultation in September 2022.

The ANZSCO 2022, Australian Update will be released on the ABS website in

November 2022, along with a complete list of classification changes.

Skills

Issues identified by users with the way in which skills are currently reflected in ANZSCO will inform a paper for public consultation in late June 2022. This will outline the position the ABS has reached with stakeholders regarding how skills should be reflected in the future. Details will be provided on how any changes would be applied, and feedback will be sought on whether the position the ABS has reached has any unintended impacts for the broader user community.

The agreed position on how skills should be reflected in ANZSCO will inform the comprehensive update of ANZSCO and its ongoing maintenance. Agreed recommendations will be implemented over time.

Other areas of ANZSCO

The ABS is committed to continuing the work with our stakeholders to deliver a targeted update of the occupations within scope for 2022 as described above.

Additionally, the Australian government recently announced \$23.7million of new funding over 4 years for the ABS to undertake a comprehensive update of ANZSCO (for delivery by December 2024) and commence an ongoing maintenance program in 2025. This measure will enable the ABS to commence review of the remaining areas of the classification yet to be updated from July 2022. This will be the first major update to the classification since 2006. It will include some structural and classification-wide changes, in time for use by the Census 2026 program.

A prioritisation framework will be used to assess submissions against a range of factors to determine the relative priority for the schedule of future review work. Submissions received by the ABS to date, including from this consultation process, will be taken into account.

The ABS is working on a delivery plan for this extensive program of work and will release further information on the schedule of review work and when stakeholder input will be sought.

If you have an interest in changes to ANZSCO and would like to subscribe to receive communication regarding future updates please provide contact details via anzsco.maintenance@abs.gov.au

Overview

Updating the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations

Overview

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), which is jointly managed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Stats NZ, describes, and covers occupations in the Australian and New Zealand labour markets. For more information on ANZSCO please read [How does ANZSCO work](#)

While the ANZSCO has had some minor updates, it still largely reflects the original 2006 version of ANZSCO, based on the 2001 labour market. In 2021, the ABS trialled a new, targeted approach to updating the ANZSCO, and in November released the [ANZSCO 2021, Australian Update](#)

This 2021 update was facilitated through a partnership between the ABS and several Australian government agencies to address key priorities and to test a new approach to maintaining the classification. For more information, please refer to the list of *Frequently Asked Questions* provided under the **Related** heading below.

Why are we consulting?

The ABS is consulting on three topics to inform the next and future updates: construction-related trades occupations as a key focus for 2022; other areas of ANZSCO requiring future update; and how skills are reflected in ANZSCO.

Construction-related trades occupations

The ANZSCO 2021, Australian Update was limited to a set of priority areas. Construction-related trades occupations was also identified as a priority by our partners and we are now seeking feedback on a preliminary list of 24 of these occupations where an Australian Apprenticeship is a significant pathway. A detailed list of these occupations is provided under the **Related** heading below.

Other areas of ANZSCO requiring update

To help identify the scope of possible changes to ANZSCO, the ABS would like feedback regarding other areas of the classification that need updating. Feedback gathered through the survey will be assessed to assist with planning future updates.

Skills

The ABS recognises that there is demand for a review of how skills are reflected in the classification. We have been working with our partners to define the key issues and are now seeking feedback from the broader user community. A skills

problem statement is provided for consideration under the **Related** heading below.

Providing feedback

To make a submission, a link is provided for each topic where you will be asked a series of questions. You are not required to respond to every question, although your submission will be strengthened by your ability to answer as thoroughly as possible and by providing supporting evidence where possible. To help prepare your submission the survey questions are also provided under the **Related** heading below.

If you provided input through the 2021 update processes your views have been registered and there is no need to provide that feedback again.

What happens next

The ABS will assess the submissions on construction-related trades occupations as part of its analysis and determine a set of proposed changes in 2022 for further consultation.

Feedback gathered through the surveys will also be assessed and used to assist with planning future updates to ANZSCO. Further consultation is planned to determine the scope of priority areas for the next update in 2023.

Related

 [Construction-Related Trades Occupations](#)

313.8 KB (PDF document)

 [Skills Problem Statement](#)

343.5 KB (PDF document)

 [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

269.1 KB (PDF document)

 [Construction-Related Trades Occupations questions](#)

174.9 KB (PDF document)

 [Other areas of ANZSCO questions](#)

180.7 KB (PDF document)

 [Skills questions](#)

169.4 KB (PDF document)

 [How ANZSCO works](#)

 [ANZSCO 2021 Australian Update](#)

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